



MEMA REPORTS

MEMA REPORTS is a monthly newsletter produced by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) to help keep the Public Safety Community of Massachusetts better informed about the day's Emergency Management issues. MEMA REPORTS also appears on the MEMA website: www.mass.gov/mema.

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SAFE JULY 4TH EVACUATION

On the evening of July 4th, based on meteorological forecasts of extreme fast-moving thunderstorms that were approaching Boston, MA State Police, in consultation with the National Weather Service and MEMA, made a decision to order a voluntary evacuation of the hundreds of thousands of attendees at the Boston Pops Annual Concert & Fireworks Display. Those on the Charles River Esplanade, Storrow Drive and Memorial Drive were moved, in a very orderly fashion into several large shelters including the Storrow Drive Tunnel. After a short period, the order was lifted and people returned for the remainder of the concert and fireworks display. Fortunately, the storm missed the immediate area and did not have an impact on the concert location, but struck with downpours, high winds and lightning throughout many of the surrounding communities. In fact, two fireworks observers just two miles away in South Boston were struck by lightning during the storm. The evacuation plan has been worked on for several years and had been reviewed in anticipation of bad weather. MA State Police, MEMA, Boston Fire, Boston EMS and Boston OEM, with the assistance of many organizations, deployed personnel into the area to successfully manage the evacuation. MEMA staff was at the Unified Command Centers in Boston and Cambridge for this event.

MEMA SUPPORTS 'WAR OF 1812' UCC

MEMA Staff supported the War of 1812 Bicentennial Celebration Unified Command Center (UCC) at U.S. Coast Guard HQ in Boston. The week-long Boston Harbor celebration, which coincided with several other large-scale area events including Harborfest, Tall Ships (OpSail) and the Boston Pops Esplanade Concert, brought Naval vessels from across the globe and large crowds to visit them. MEMA Region I and HQ staff's role and focus at the UCC for June 28 through July 5 were to serve as state Public Safety liaisons, attaining situational awareness, providing updates on emerging issues through MEMA's Chain of Command, providing state asset coordination and filling in a variety of roles within the Incident Command System, which was utilized at the UCC.

MEMA SUPPORTS VARIOUS LOCAL CELEBRATIONS

Pittsfield: MEMA Supported the 4th of July Parade in Pittsfield with the Mobile Emergency Operations Center and Communications Support Trailer. Cache radios were also deployed for use as a coordination channel for Public Safety. The event was a complete success as Police, Fire, EMS, and EMA officials were able to coordinate the parade from the new Mobile EOC.

Springfield: MEMA Supported the 4th of July Fireworks in Springfield with the Mobile Emergency Operations Center and Communications Support Trailer. Cache radios were also deployed for this evening event as well. Police, Fire, EMS, EMA, and DPW staffs were all able to coordinate the event with much success.

Fairhaven: MEMA Supported the 200th Birthday Parade for the Town of Fairhaven with the Mobile Emergency Operations Center and Communications Support Trailer. The Mobile EOC served as the Command and Coordination center for Police, Fire, EMS and EMA officials. With the high temperatures and excessive heat that day, MEMA Staff jumped into action to assist participants with heat-related medical emergencies.

EARLY EXTREME HEAT

Despite the early arrival of extreme heat throughout the country, Massachusetts has been fortunate to not experience the wide-spread heat-related deaths seen elsewhere. With additional extremely hot days ahead, MEMA encourages local communities to continue to warn and educate the public when these extended heat waves return. MEMA has again posted tips for safely dealing with these conditions on the MEMA website at www.mass.gov/mema. Communities are asked to notify MEMA when opening 'cooling centers'; MEMA provides this information to the public through the MASS2-1-1 telephone information system.

MEMA CONTINUES TO RESTRUCTURE

MEMA Director Kurt Schwartz announced additional organizational structure changes and staff additions at MEMA. Mike Russas has been promoted to the position of Chief of the Response & Field Services Division, supervising the Operations Unit, Training & Exercise Unit and Regional Offices. Steve Staffier has been appointed to the new position of Communications & Interoperability Manager, and will also serve as the Commonwealth's State-Wide Interoperability Coordinator. Marybeth Groff has been hired as the Hazard Mitigation Planner in the Mitigation & Disaster Recovery Unit under the Emergency Management Services Section.

A major change has occurred in MEMA's Communications Center. On June 30th MEMA assumed the responsibility for some of the Department of Conservation & Recreation's communications/ dispatch functions. Mike Petak and Bob Larsen are long-time DCR employees who have moved to MEMA to be members of our Dispatch/Communications staff. State Control at MEMA will now serve as primary dispatch for the DCR Bureau of Fire Control and State Parks in the West, Central, North, and South Regions. This transfer of responsibility for dispatch comes after several years of planning between DCR and MEMA. This change will result in cost savings but most importantly it will bring 24-hour dispatching capability, 365 days per year for DCR. It also features advanced technology and a more efficient communications system which will provide enhanced interoperability and a more reliable radio network tool for DCR field staff.

MEMA STAFF HONORED

Each year, the MEMA staff nominates peers for the Commonwealth's Performance Recognition Awards Program. The MEMA Performance Recognition Awards Committee then undertakes the difficult task of reviewing the nominations and identifying the one to three staff members who are most deserving of recognition for their job performance and attitude over the past year. This is a very difficult task at MEMA because of the many outstanding staff members. This year, the Committee recommended three deserving staff members. Director Schwartz accepted the recommendations and submitted the three candidates for consideration. All three of MEMA's nominations were accepted for Commonwealth recognition. Congratulations to Communications & Interoperability Manager Steve Staffier, Fleet & Logistics Manager John Holbrook, and Administrative Assistant Kenyi Suarez who were recognized on June 27th as winners of the Performance Recognition Award.

RMS REACHES MILESTONE

To date, over 100 entities have completed Resource Management System (RMS) Training (99 communities and 12 agencies.) Of that number, over 30 have begun actively entering and updating their resources and facilities into the system. The RMS, which was developed with financial support from the state's Homeland Security Councils and the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, is a

secure web-based system that may be used by all cities and towns, state agencies and other emergency management partners including public works, public health and emergency medical services, to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid across the Commonwealth. MEMA urges all cities and towns, agencies and organizations to take full advantage of RMS by using it as an internal inventory management system and to facilitate emergency and non-emergency mutual aid support. The success of the Resource Management System, meaning the degree to which it helps municipalities, agencies and organizations locate needed resources during emergencies, ultimately depends on the commitment of the system's users to complete the training, enter their resources (equipment, people and specialized teams) into the system, and to keep the system updated. Please contact your respective MEMA Regional Office to request additional assistance, if needed.

MUTUAL AID NUMBERS CONTINUE TO GROW

The number of communities and governmental entities opting into the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement continues to rise. To date, 229 entities are on board with the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement and 159 have signed onto the Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement. See the list at www.mass.gov/mema. MEMA continues to encourage all cities and towns to take advantage of this opportunity. Local officials with any questions regarding the Agreement should contact their MEMA Regional Office or Allen Phillips, MEMA Operations Manager at (508) 820-1426 or allen.phillips@state.ma.us.

JUNE TRAINING UPDATE

During this past month, an additional 194 individuals attended 13 different classes receiving training through MEMA in the following subject areas: *ICS-100 ICS-300, ICS-400, ICS-402, Resource Management System (RMS) Basic, RMS, Emergency Operations Center Operations & Management, WebEOC Overview* and *WebEOC Refresher*. Year-to-date, 1,286 have been trained. For additional information regarding MEMA Training and future classes, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

SPECIALIZED TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

- MEMA's Training and Exercise Unit, in partnership with the Emergency Management Institute/FEMA conducted the All-Hazards Resource Unit Leader course on June 4-7 at MSP HQ in Framingham. This course was offered to individuals who are regularly assigned to this position specific function, serve on an All-Hazards Type III Incident Management Team or by those seeking credentials/certification in this function.
- 11 MEMA staff completed the "First Responder" Training on June 14, 15 & 19. The 24- hour training program was offered in conjunction with the Department of Fire Services. The course included a combination of lecture, discussion and practical training on pre hospital emergency medical response for first responders.
- The Training and Exercise Unit, with the Department of Homeland Security, MA Municipal Training Committee, and Quincy Police Department conducted the TRIPwire workshop in Quincy, MA. TRIPwire is a free information-sharing and collaboration portal designed to aid the bombing prevention community. The "one-stop" resource contains expert-validated analysis of IEDs, relevant news, reports, training materials, and threat alerts.
- The Training and Exercise Unit conducted the annual HURREVAC (stands for HURRricane EVACuation) training on June 21st. MEMA hosted this in partnership with FEMA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). 22 students attended, including MEMA Planning and Operations staff, coastal communities, and other cities and towns. HURREVAC is a software program used by government officials to track hurricanes and assist them in making efficient and effective decisions.

GRANT NEWS

MEMA continues to post Grant information on the MEMA website:

FFY 2011 EMPG AGF:

MEMA has posted its FFY2011 Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) Application for Grant Funding for municipalities and federally-recognized Tribes with local Emergency Management Departments. MEMA plans to, via this grant process, make available approximately \$2.2M to eligible entities. This document, which can be found on the MEMA Website, provides a brief overview and specific guidance for entities applying for funds: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/empg-and-ccp-and-hmep-grants.html>.

FFY 2010-2011 CCP AGF for CERTs:

MEMA has posted its FFY 2010-2011 Citizen Corps Program Application for Grant Funding for Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs). The applications from CERTs are due by 8/31/12. Information can be found at <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/empg-and-ccp-and-hmep-grants.html>.

FFY 2010 EMPG AGF for MRCs and VIPS:

MEMA has also posted its FFY 2010 Emergency Management Planning Grant (EMPG) Application for Grant Funding for Medical Reserve Corps (MRCs) and Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). The applications from MRCs and VIPS are due by 8/31/12. Information on this grant may be found on MEMA's website: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/empg-and-ccp-and-hmep-grants.html>.

STATEWIDE ALL-HAZARDS IMT STRATEGY

MEMA has hired Tetra Tech to develop its Statewide All-Hazards Incident Management Team (IMT) Strategy. A draft Summary Report has been developed which represents Phase 1 of this project. To develop this draft, Tetra Tech conducted research on how other states have and/or are developing All-Hazards IMTs. This draft presents their findings, provides points of discussion, and some broad best practices. Using this draft, and through stakeholder meetings, Tetra Tech and MEMA will conduct a facilitated discussion on the issues raised in this report. A revised report that incorporates stakeholder input will be developed after the stakeholder meetings have concluded.

2011 DISASTERS RECOVERY STATUS

January 11-12 Blizzard – (DR-1959): FEMA Public Assistance - \$25.3M.

June 1 Tornado (DR-1994): FEMA Individual Assistance – 1,079 individuals approved for aid with \$4.8M distributed; Small Business administration – 283 homeowner and business loans totaling \$16.7M; FEMA Public Assistance - \$25.1M.

Tropical Storm Irene (DR-4028): FEMA Individual Assistance – 694 individuals approved for aid with \$5.5M distributed; Small Business Administration – 80 homeowner and business loans totaling \$3.4M; FEMA Public Assistance - \$23.7M.

October 29-30 Nor'easter (DR-4051): FEMA Public Assistance - \$22.3M.

FEMA recovery information is available at <http://www.fema.gov/femaNews/disasterSearch.do>.

LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS CONTINUE TO SEEK SUPPORT

More than one year after the June 1st Tornado tore through parts of western MA there are still unmet needs as families seek to rebuild their lives. Three Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRG) formed in the hardest hit areas and have been coordinating essential assistance for those impacted. These largely volunteer-led collaborations have been providing for the needs of individuals and families while they continue to recover from the storm. In coordination with FEMA, Massachusetts Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (MAVOAD) is seeking additional help for these individuals and families. Continuing needs include skilled laborers, committed volunteers, office space and financial donations which can immediately be applied to critical needs. For those interested in providing support please contact Boston Cares at disasterrelief@bostoncares.org or 617.420.2298. For additional information about how to volunteer, go to www.mass.gov/mema.

TORNADO SURVIVORS' CRISIS CONSULING AVAILABLE THROUGH JULY 31

Free crisis counseling continues to be available for residents of Hampden and Worcester counties who may be stressed, anxious or depressed due to the June 1st tornadoes. Those who want to take advantage of this confidential service may call (855) 915-8047, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The service is provided by the MA Department of Mental Health (MDMH) through their MassSupport Program and will be available through July 31, 2012. This service is funded by FEMA through a grant to MDMH.

NFIP EXTENDED

President Obama has signed the "Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2012" into law. The law extends the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) for five years and makes reforms to the program. The legislation that will extend the NFIP until Sept. 30, 2017, also calls for reforms including phasing out subsidies for many properties, raising the cap on annual premium increases from 10 percent to 20 percent, allowing multi-family properties to purchase NFIP policies, imposing minimum deductibles for flood claims, requiring the NFIP administrator to develop a plan for repaying the debt incurred from Hurricane Katrina, and establishing a technical mapping advisory council to deal with map modernization issues. The new law will also require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a study on the prospect of adding business interruption and additional living expenses coverages to the NFIP and would require the Federal Insurance Office (FIO) to study and submit a report to Congress on natural disaster insurance issues and possible legislative solutions. For additional information, go to <http://www.fema.gov/business/nfip/>.

CERT HAM RADIO DRILL

On June 23, Sgt. Jonathan Hubbard, Ipswich Emergency Manager, directed a ham radio drill with local CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members. The team consisted of police, ham radio operators, local CERT members and MEMA staff. In addition to the local volunteers, there were several from Danvers and Andover, MA who assisted during the exercise. About 12 members participated in the emergency communication exercise in which they had to bring in equipment and use the radios to communicate with other ham radios around the country. As part of the drill, the team had to bring in the trailer with the emergency supplies, set up some tent canopies, tables and chairs, string up wires for the 4 different ham radio stations, and set up an educational exhibit to show CERT supplies and disaster preparedness materials. Each of the ham radio setups focused on using various power sources (solar, generator and car battery) as well as a variety of antennas following the ARRL (Amateur Radio Relay League) guidelines.

ARRL HURRICANE SEASON WEBINAR

The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) will host a webinar at 8:00-9:30PM on Tuesday, July 17 to present information about the 2012 Hurricane Season and the Amateur Radio response. The program will offer presentations from representatives from the National Hurricane Center and WX4NHC (the Amateur Radio station at the NHC), the VoIP Hurricane Net, the Hurricane Watch Net and the ARRL. Webinar registration is open to all, but this informative web session will be of particular interest to those amateurs interested in emergency communications and hurricane preparedness & response. To register for the webinar: <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/472855454>. For additional webinar information, go to <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-to-host-webinar-on-amateur-radio-response-to-2012-hurricane-season>.

INWS MOBILE ALERTING:

InteractiveNWS (iNWS) is the home of new mobile and desktop innovations of the National Weather Service. This application suite allows NWS partners to receive National Weather Service products in new and innovative ways, such as text messaging and mobile-enabled webpages. INWS strives to

fulfill the NWS mission of protecting life and property by using new technology to better reach their customers. For information, go to <http://inws.wrh.noaa.gov/>.

NWS CHAT NWSChat is an Instant Messaging program utilized by NWS operational personnel to share critical warning decision expertise and other types of significant weather information essential to the NWS's mission of saving lives and property. This information is exchanged in real-time with the media and emergency response community, who in turn play a key role in communicating the NWS's hazardous weather messages to the public. NWS partners can use NWSChat as an efficient means of seeking clarifications and enhancements to the communication stream originating from the NWS during a fast-paced significant weather or hydrologic event. NWS Chat is open to emergency managers, government partners, and electronic media. To join, simply go to <https://nwschat.weather.gov/> and click on "Request NWS Chat Account - NWS Partners" and select "BOX" as your servicing office.

CYBER CAPABILITIES TTX

Following in the steps of the National Level Exercise 2012, FEMA has made a Cyber Capabilities Tabletop Exercise available for download. This cyber scenario-based exercise is designed to increase understanding of cyber threat alerts, warning, and information sharing across sectors, and to test and evaluate government-private sector coordinating structures, processes, and capabilities regarding cyber event response and recovery. The Tabletop Exercise is an interactive exercise, complete with accompanying facilitator's notes and scripted video injects. The materials are available at www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=5949.

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW MEMA UPDATES ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER, AS WELL AS ON THE MEMA WEBSITE at www.mass.gov/mema.

